

Wanderers recover after early shock

WYCOMBE Wanderers overcame the shock of conceding a goal in the first minute to fight back and secure a draw against Staines Town in their Berger Isthmian League match at Loakes Park on Tuesday night.

The Staines goal came after only 48 seconds and provided a sweet moment for defender Rob Williams who netted the goal against the team his elder brother Andy now manages.

The Wycombe defence was caught cold by a high ball into the left corner of the penalty area. It was headed towards Williams, who controlled it on his chest before placing it wide of John Maskell from five yards out.

He had avoided all marking and things looked black for Wycombe, who remembered that they had already lost once to Staines this season. The defence seemed unusually hesitant.

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Staines Town 1

Rob's namesake, but no relation, Jester Williams, a tall coloured striker had a golden chance to put Staines further ahead when he broke clear of the Wycombe cover. But Maskell was quick off his line to narrow the angle and Williams shot well wide.

This was a great escape for Wanderers, who then began to play some of their best football of the season for the half hour before the interval.

The improved form was part explained by the fact that for only the second time this season Mr Williams had been able to field an unchanged side. They certainly tore the Staines defence apart and only acrobatic goalkeeping by Graham Yates kept them in the game.

He first came into the action after 15 minutes when he dived full-length to save a powerfully-hit shot by Howard

Kennedy, who was having one of his most effective games.

The pressure intensified just before the break with a series of extraordinary incidents in the Staines goalmouth. With a bit of luck Blues could have scored three times but they had to settle for the one.

Kennedy's close range shot evaded Yates but was cleared off the line for a corner. From the corner Steve Long's in-swinging kick hit the far post and was somehow cleared.

Then, following a cross from Long, the ball bobbled around the goalmouth before Holifield, with the goal at his mercy, ballooned it over the top from five yards.

The goal eventually came 20 seconds before the half-time whistle. Scott sent in a very high cross just inside the penalty area. The ball ricocheted from one of the group gathering under it, and bounced to

Bobby Davies, who netted his first goal of the season with his left foot.

The half-time interval seemed to dampen Wycombe's ardour and they could never regain the same momentum. There were just periodic attacks in which Yates again demonstrated his agility.

Ten minutes from the end Dylan Evans came on for Long, who had received a knock on his ankle early in the game. Evans missed a good chance near the end, but it was excused by the fact that he had only just come on.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, R. Davies, K. Mead, A. Phillips, S. Hardwick, S. Atkins, M. Holifield, S. Long (sub: D. Evans 80 mins), H. Kennedy, T. Scott.

STAINES: G. Yates; M. Bax, E. Manners, R. Williams, E. Young, P. Beasant, R. Denison, B. Greenhalgh (sub: K. Baker 69 mins), B. Steer, J. Williams, E. Bissett.

Referee: G. Gordon (Raynes Park).

Attendance: 900.

Half-time: 1-1. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Davies (45 mins); Staines — Williams (1 min).